What activities and facilities are available at the Richard Rodda Community Center?

The Richard Rodda Community Center is the home of the Teaneck
Recreation Department. The Department offers recreational programs
for residents 18 months and older through youth and adult recreation
programs and it's senior recreation program. The Department's preschool
program, Sunshine Garden Learning Center and After School Child Care Program are house
in the Rodda Center. Meeting rooms, gyms and
other facilities of the Rodda Center are available for rent by community based organizations
and groups. The Senior Transportation Department which
facilitates transportation requests for senior and disabled residents is also
located at the Rodda Center.

Where is the Richard Rodda Community Center located, how do I get there and where do I go when I get to the building?

The Rodda Center is located at 250 Colonial Court. Coming north on Palisade Avenue, pass under route 4, our building is first right turn. Coming south on Palisade Avenue, drive to the south end of Votee Park and turn left before route 4. The Administrative Office is located on the left as you enter the first floor of the building. The Senior Services Center Office is located the second floor and can be accessed via the staircase or elevator from the first floor or by entering the building from the upper level parking lot.

What are the office hours and when is the building open?

The Department offices are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday excluding municipal holidays. During the months of June and July the Department offers extended hours on Wednesday evenings from 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The building is open seven days a week. Hours are: Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

How do I register for recreational programs?

Registration for programs for 18 months to 54 years of age are held quarterly. The first two weeks of registration is by mail only, followed by walk in registration until classes are filled. Walk in registration for non resident adults 25 years of age or older are held after the residential mail in registration. Registration for programs for 54 years of age and older is by mail only for residents and held 5 times a year.

When applying for programs, pool tags and badges and other Department programs, do I have to show proof of residency? What are the acceptable forms of residency?

Yes, every time you register for Departmental programs, purchase a pool tag or badge or sign up for any Department program, you must show current proof of residency. Acceptable forms of residency proof for adults are a current New Jersey Driver's License with a Teaneck address, a current utility bill, a mortgage or lease. For children, along with the parent's proof of residency, a school report card, birth certificate or passport are acceptable proofs.

I would like to know about the staffing of the Sunshine Garden Learning Center?

Sunshine Garden Learning Center is a state licensed facility. The Director of the program has twenty years experience in early childhood education. The head teachers are certified and each head teacher has over ten years teaching experience. We accept 60 students in the program and the student to teacher ratio is 9 to 1.

Will the staff of the Sunshine Garden Learning Center re-heat my child's lunch? Are snacks provided to the children?

Yes, when requested the staff will re-heat your child's prepared lunch.

Health state-mandated snacks are provided to children mid-morning and mid-afternoon subject to any dietary restrictions your child may have.

Tell me about the Department's After School program? Can my child participate in the program?

Teaneck children, ages 6 to 13 years, may be enrolled in the Department's After School Program. The program is staffed by certified teachers and college students. Students are separated by grade level and we offer homework assistance, arts and crafts, special events, outdoor play (weather permitting) use of gym and dance studio and a daily state-mandated healthy snack subject to any dietary restriction your child may have. We accept up to 150 students in the program.

Will the staff administer medicine to my child who is enrolled in the Sunshine Garden Learning Center and/or the After School Child Care Program?

No. Medications may be administered in extreme emergency situations such as a precautionary dose of Bendryl or, if needed an Epipen injection.

Does the Department offer a summer camp program?

Each summer the department offers three two-week sessions of

camps for residents from 3 years of age to those entering 9th grade in the fall of that year. Applications are available mid-March. The first five weeks of registration are mail in only followed by walk in registration until camps are filled. Before and after camp care is available. Also available are a 5 week playground programs for ages 9 to 13 and a 4 week specials needs program afternoons in July. Only Teaneck residents are eligible to participate in the camp programs.

How can I join the Township pools?

The Township has three municipal pools. Two above ground pools, with a depth of four feet, are located in Hawthorne and Phelps Parks. An in ground pool, with a graduated depth from 18 inches to five feet, is located in Votee Park. The pools are open from the last Saturday in June through and including Labor Day. Pool tags for Hawthorne and Phelps Park pools and photo i.d. badges for Votee Park pool are available for a nominal seasonal fee for Teaneck residents only at the Department's Administrative Office.

How do I obtain a permit to reserve tables and grills in Votee or Phelps Parks?

Permits are issued free of charge to Teaneck residents on a first come, first served basis. Residents complete the Park Application Use form, a Hold Harmless agreement and present proof of residence at the Recreation Department's administrative office and they will be issued a permit at that time. Non residents may apply for and receive permits for a fee, if available.

How do I obtain a permit to reserve a Township ball field or the Votee Park band shell?

Permits are issued to residents upon the completion of an Application for Park Use form and a Hold Harmless agreement. This paperwork must be submitted a minimum of two weeks before the requested date for use of the facility. When approved, the resident or group must pay the appropriate fee as established by Township Council and, in some instances, may be required to provide an insurance certificate. Non resident groups may apply for and receive permits for a fee, if available.

How does my organization or group arrange to rent a room or gymnasium at the Richard Rodda Community Center?

Township groups and organizations can complete an Application for Building Use and submit it a minimum of two weeks before the requested use for the facility. When approved the group or organization must pay the appropriate fee as established by Township Council and, in some instances, may be required to

provide an insurance certificate.

How does the Senior Services Center determine who will be able to participate in a particular class?

There is an in take process for new participants to the Center prior to participation in any program. All selection for class participation is done on a first come, first served basis. As each class request is received, it is processed and the eligible participant is notified by telephone of the classes which they have been enrolled in.

Why does the Senior Services Center required a Medical Release Form?

The information supplied by your physician provides a recommendation for the level of physical activities which you may engage it. This information allows us to make appropriate class recommendations. You do not need to schedule an special appointment with your doctor for this evaluation. Simply ask your doctor to complete the form and fax it to our office.

What transportation services are offered to senior and disabled residents?

The Recreation Department offers senior and disabled residents transportation to medical appointments, food shopping and small errands. Medical appointments are accepted to the following towns: Teaneck, Hackensack, Englewood and the fringes of Bogota, Bergenfield and River Edge for medical appointments scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Food shopping is offered weekly to Pathmark in Bergenfield and Stop N' Shop on a regularly scheduled basis. Requests are processed on a first come, first served basis. Request should be submitted two weeks in advance of scheduled appointments.